Contribution of SSIs

3880. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of the small scale sector so far in generation of employment, contribution to total industrial output and exports;

(b) the present policy of Government towards this sector; and

(c) how far this policy has helped in *nurturing and strengthening this sector?*

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The estimated total employment in the small scale sector upto January, 1996 was 152.61 lakhs. The contribution of this sector to the total industrial output was of the order of Rs. 3,56,213 crores during 1995-96 and to total exports was Rs. 36,470 crores during 1995-96.

(b) The important policy measures of the Government towards SSI sector include, priority sector lending to SSI; fiscal concession in the form of excise relief; reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector; price and purchase preference to products manufactured in SSI sector; instructions for providing adequate credit; infrastructure support in an integrated manner through integrated infrastructure development scheme; enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation; and enhancing entrepreneurship development programme by involving voluntary agencies and strengthening entrepreneurship development institutes.

(c) The various incentives given to the small scale sector have helped the overall growth of small scale sector in terms of number of SSI units, employment, output and exports. The number of SSI units has increased from 19.48 lakhs in 1990-91 to 27.24 lakh in 1995-96. The total employment has gone up from 125.3 lakhs to 152.61 lakh, total output has increased from Rs. 1,53,340 crores to Rs. 3,56,213 crores and exports from Rs. 9,664 crores to Rs. 36,470 crores during the same period.

Committee to make recommendations on sick PSUs

3881. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the newly appointed Cabinet Secretary to make recommendations regarding the future of the sick industrial units of the public sector;

(b) whether Government have invited suggestions from any other Committees etc. regarding sick industrial units of the public sector during the last three years;

(c) if so, the number of those Committees or experts or Commissions and on which dates these were constituted/appointed; and

(d) whether Government have implemented those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) The sick public sector industrial units are guided by the policy framework as spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme. However, the cases of revival of individual industrial PSUs are considered by the Government based on the approved revival plans of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and for non-industrial sick PSUs strategies are decided in consultation with the PSU managements. No formal High Power Committee has been constituted for this purpose.

Non observance of Holiday Id-ul-Zuha

3882. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that employees belonging to minority community in the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited were denied to observe Id-ul-Zuha on 18th April, 1997 and were asked to attend the office in Agra;

(b) whether feelings of such section of employees have been hurt; and

(c) if so, the fact and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. 18th April, 1997 was observed as a holiday on account of holy Id-ul-Zuha in the various Units of Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd. (BLC) at Agra.